

Serial No. 10/791,647
Response to FR dated 11/01/05
CRD-946 DIV.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is filed in response to the Final Rejection November 1, 2005.

The Examiner continues to use the patent to Lorentzen Cornelius et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,068,634. While the Applicants continue to believe all of the objections to the Lorentzen reference made in the response to the Office Action dated April 19, 2005 continue to exist, the Applicants also wish to bring to the Examiner's attention further amendments that clearly distinguish over Lorentzen. Now it is described that the elastomeric bands do not overlap the stent at any portion along the stent's longitudinal length. Clearly, Lorentzen does not describe this in any fashion. So, the unique combination of the elastomeric bands and the distal tip are not suggested at all by the art and yet continue to provide good "pushability" of the stent while reducing trauma along the tip. This combination and result are nowhere taught or suggested by the art.

Further amendments merely clarify the claims for § 112 purposes.

Accordingly, Applicants herewith request allowance of claims 41-43 and 45-47.

Respectfully submitted,

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